

The Hong Kong Daily Press.

No. 9607 第一千六百九十九號

日十二月九日光

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1888.

號四十二月十英港香

PRICE \$2 PER MONTH.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

October 23, THYRA, German steamer, 664 E. Jacobsen, Whampier 23rd October, General—ED. SCHILLHAAS & CO.
October 23, HAITAN, British steamer, 1,182 S. Ashton, Fochow 1st October, Amoy 21st, and Swatow 22nd, General—DOUGLAS L. PRAK & CO.
October 23, AMY, German str., 873 R. Koller, Shanghai 20th October, General—SIEGMANN & CO.
October 23, LAERTES, British str., 1,861 R. F. Scles, Glasgow 1st September, Liverpool 8th, and Singapore 16th October, General—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.
October 23, HECTOR, British steamer, 1,592 H. Batt, Amoy 23rd October, General—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

CLEARANCES.
AT THE HARBOURMASTER'S OFFICE
23rd OCTOBER
Kobe Maru Japanese str., for Yokohama.
Thales, British str., for Swatow.
Arragon Apear, British str., for Singapore.
Thyra, German str., for Newchawng.
Tachton, British str., for Hangkow.
Triton, German str., for Saigon.
Triumph, German str., for Holbow.
Merbudda, British str., for Amoy.
Diamonds, British str., for Amoy.

DEPARTURES.

October 23, CLARA, German str., for Haiphong.
October 23, PARAHAN, British str., for Shanghai.
October 23, KERATON APPAL, British str., for Calcutta.
October 23, THYRA, German str., for Newchawng.
October 23, TAICHOENG, Brit. str., for Bangkok.
October 23, AMY, German str., for Whampier.
October 23, KWANG-LEH, Chinese str., for Whampier.
October 23, DIAMANTE, British str., for Manila.
October 23, NIONE, German str., for Yokohama.

PASSENGERS.

Arrived:
Per Haidan, str., from East Coast.—Mr. and Mrs. Fairhurst, Rev. T. E. Currie, Messrs. Dodd, and Goldsmith; and 187 Chinese.
Per Amy, str., from Shanghai.—2 Europeans, and 30 Chinese.
Per Laertes, str., from Glasgow, Mr.—Mr. Bigmore, 20 Chinese, from Singapore.
Per Hest, str., from Amy.—Mr. Westhall, and 17 Chinese.
To depart:
Per Hydron, str., from Hongkong.—For Singapore—Capt. Fletcher R.A. and servant, Colonel Craster, R.A., Mr. Choy Kee and child, and Mr. Soo Luk. For Penang—Messrs. Kee Sui Cheung and servant. For Bombay—Messrs. R. J. Duff, R. M. Thompson, Romany, and N. K. Antia. For London—Mrs. Collier, from Edinburgh; For Paris—Mr. Moses, from London—Rev. F. B. Turner, and Mr. W. W. King. From Yokohama—For Port Said—Mr. Hollingsworth, For London—Mr. Homa. From Hyogo—For Port Said—Mr. Prette.

Per Arragon, str., for Pasong—Mrs. Chan Yung and son, Mrs. Wong Ho, and Mrs. Chan See Ho. For Calcutta—Mrs. J. E. Obdaya, Messrs. E. J. Ellis and F. W. Bard.
Reported:
RETIRED.
The British steamer LAERTES, from Glasgow 1st September, Liverpool 9th, and Singapore 16th October, reports from Singapore to Paros light air and calm; hence to port strong monsoon and high sea. On the 18th October, spoke the American ship CLARISSA B. Carter, in lat. 11.37 and long. 111.33.

MODES DE PARIS.

MELLE. A. CHEVALLIER,
FRENCH MILLINER,
31, WYNDHAM STREET, FIRST FLOOR,
COLLAGE CHAMBERS.
Has just received from Paris a large choice of
WINTER HATS, DRESSES, MANTLES,
AND SUNDAY ARTICLES OF CLOTHING
FOR LADIES AND CHILDREN.
Hongkong, 29th October, 1888. [1888]

A. FONG, PHOTOGRAPIHER
has just added to his collection of
VIEWS some NEW SCENES and Photos
of NATIVE TYPES, copies of which are obtainable
in his studio at Messrs. Kelly & Walsh,
10, QUEEN'S ROAD, Hongkong, and
Exemplified in the Photo Album showing
EXEMPLARIES of LACQUERS, and Views and
reproductions of the same on Paper, Canvas, or
Opal.

INSTANTANEOUS VIEWS, GROUPS and PORTRAITA are taken in any state of the weather, and all Permanent Processes, are executed on Moderate Terms.

STUDIO—ICE HOUSE LANE. [1888]

PHOTOGRAPHS! PHOTOGRAPHS!
PHOTOGRAPHS!

The undersigned begs to inform the Public
that he has just received No. 1000 of the
latest invention for Photography in all
its Branches, and respectfully solicits the
patronage of those wishing to be photographed.
To ensure the excellence of all his predictions
he has called to his assistance a thoroughly experienced man from his famous Studio in Nagasaki.

Charges are extremely low, and punctuality
and dispatch are guaranteed.

Those who take Groups or Objects out of doors
instantly respond to:

Photographs taken in any weather.

H. UYENO,
ICE HOUSE,
Queen's Road,
Hongkong, 13th October, 1888. [1888]

NOTICE.

FROM the First November next, the
SHANGHAI BUDAWAN LTD. will pre-
pare SUPPLY BEAVERDALE LTD.
Fresh and Pickled ENGLISH FORK
SAUSAGES, &c., &c.

Also,
BEEF IN JOLLYS AND CORNED, BLACK PU-
DDINGS, BURK and GAME PIES.
S. R. GALE,
Shanghai, 21st September, 1888. [1888]

FOR SALE.

TWO FINE COWS.
Apply to
A. D.
Care of Office of this Paper.
Hongkong, 23rd October, 1888. [1888]

COAL MERCHANT,
has 1/2 way on hand
LARGE STOCKS & EVERY DESCRIPTION OF
COAL
FOR SALE AT A MODERATE PRICE.
No. 85, PHAYA CENTRAL. [1888]

FINE FOR SALE.

JUST ARRIVED.

PRICE Moderate. Has been well patronised
by Ship Building Yards and Docks, and is also fit for the Building of Forts, & Vessels.

Apply to
ON T.Y.E.
First Floor, No. 18, Despatch Street,
Hongkong, 23rd October, 1888. [1888]

INTIMATIONS.

WITH PROFITS POLICIES IN THE STANDARD LIFE OFFICE

TAKEN OUT BEFORE 15TH NOVEMBER NEXT.

will rank for two years from the next

DIVISION OF PROFITS.

Proposal Forms and Tables of Rates on
application.

THE BORNEO COMPANY, LIMITED,
Agents, Hongkong.

KELLY & WALSH, LIMITED

KELLY & WALSH, LIMITED

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S CARDS

Chines Water Colour Panel Cards beautifully
painted. "Chinese" Japanese Kimonos

in native box with suitable Greetings, Japanese

Hand Painted Christmas Cards, Local View in

Groups and Single Subjects arranged as Xmas

Cards, and the very best Productions of the best

English Makers in the newest designs. Our

Stock of Prang's High Class American Cards

will arrive about the 1st November, fully three

weeks before the latest mail date to reach home

for Christmas.

Postcard and Photographs of Eliza Terry

as Portia, Mary Anderson, Miss Milliet, Miss

Moore, and other celebrated Beauties and

Actresses.

Automatic Copying and Lead Pencils.

Quackenbush's Spring Gun, with single

bars and spare Sprungs.

Photographs from the most celebrated Mod-

ern Pictures, framed and mounted.

Just Published, price 75 Cents.

HOW TO WRITE THE RADICALS, being an
introduction method to writing Chinese, by J.

Over Ball.

DRAPER, F. B., TURNER, & CO.

WILLIAMS & WALSH, LTD., HONGKONG:

NEW AUTUMN AND WINTER STOCK

GENTLEMEN'S OUTFITTING DEPARTMENT.

TAILORING.—The newest Materials for

Dress Suits, Morning Suits and JACKETS.

Suits, Thin and Thick Materials for Over

and Ultra Coats, Covert Coatings, A

Complete Selection of Materials for Breches

and Riding Trousers, Fancy Colors and

Woolens. Fancy Striped Cricketing

LAWN.—Underwear and Pantaloons in

Angola, Cashmere, Lamb's-wool, Lam-

wool, Silk, &c. Half-hose in Knitted-wool,

Lamb's-wool, Liana, Cashmere, & Merino;

Fancy Silk Half-hose, Shooting Stockings,

Riding, Foot-ball and Yacht Suits.

SHIRTS, SOLEARS & WHISEYLANDS.

DRAPERY.—Half-hose, Tennis Shirts,

Drinking Glasses, Travelling Bags, Card-

Designs of Jurielskaws, Junks, Sampans

with Mottoes.

Skeleton Leaves of China, hand painted and

printed.

Pidgin English Sing Song Cards in a New

Drab.

A Great Variety of Novelties in American

and Continental Cards.

LET'S DIARY, 1889.

NORTH CHINA DATE BLOCKS.

WALTER W. BREWER,
UNDER HONGKONG HOTEL.

27

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE,
LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE SEVENTH ORDINARY GE-

NERAL MEETING OF THE SHA-

RELDERSHIP.

THE 27th October instant.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company

will CLOSE from the 18th to the 27th

instant both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,

General Agents.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

HONGKONG, 9th October, 1888. [1888]

THE P. H. B. BREWER, LTD.

1888

THE P. H. B. BREWER, LTD.

INTIMATIONS.

1888. NOW READY. 1889.

CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
FOR 1888.
With which is incorporated
THE CHINA DIRECTORY.
(TWO POUNDS ANNUAL ISSUE.)
COMPILED WITH APPENDIX, PRICE, £2.,
ROYAL SOV. NO. 12000... £3.00.
SMALLER EDITION, £1.50. £1.00.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
has been thoroughly revised and brought up
to date, and is again much increased in bulk.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED

OUR NEW SEASONS
FLOWER AND VEGETABLE
SEEDS

ARE NOW READY.

Flower Parcels of 50 Packets, price \$10.00
of 20 " 5.00
Vegetable " 45 " 7.50
Single Packets at list prices.

SPECIAL FLORIST'S SEEDS.

In Packets of six or more named varieties,
viz:-CLOWN PINES—PANSIES—PHLOX—
HOLLYHOCKS—PORTULACA, VERBENA
AND PETUNIA.MUSGROVE'S MACHEL
(The New Variety).

FRIEND CATALOGUE ON APPLICATION.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 1st August, 1888.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not
ordered for a fixed period will be forwarded until
otherwise directed.Orders for extra copies of the *Daily Press* should
be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication,
after which the supply is limited.

TELEPHONE No. 13.

BIRTHS.

On the 19th instant, Mr. & Mrs. KENNEDY, of a residence, Cawnpore, No. 4, Morion Hill, Mrs. A. KENNEDY, wife of a bachelor, No. 1913 On the 19th October, at the Beech Foundling Home, the wife of FREDERICK HARTMANN, of a son. [1888]

DEATH.

At Amy, on 25th September, Dr. JOHN POLLOCK.

[1871]

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, OCTOBER 24TH, 1888.

IN NOVEMBER, 1887, A NUMBER OF RESIDENTS AT THE WESTERN END OF THE CITY PRESENTED A PETITION TO THE GOVERNOR DIRECTING ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY TERMED THE SERIOUS SANITARY CONDITION OF THAT DISTRICT. THEY STATED THAT DURING THE PRECEDING SUMMER SEVERAL HUNDRED CHINESE HAD BEEN ABSENT FROM THE MAJORITY OF IT, IF NOT ALL, THE FOREIGN RESIDENCES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, NATIVE AND FOREIGN INMATES HAVING BEEN ATTACKED INDISCRIMINATELY; SOME HOUSEHOLDERS HAD AS MANY AS FORTY CHANGES OF SERVANTS WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, AND THE MORTALITY AMONGST THE CHINESE HAD BEEN VERY GREAT. A COMMISSION OF MEDICAL MEN, EIGHT IN NUMBER, WAS APPOINTED BY HIS EXCELLENCE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE STATEMENTS MADE IN THE PETITION, INTO THE CAUSES OF FEVER REFERRED TO THEREIN, AND TO RECOMMEND SUCH MEASURES AS MIGHT BE DEEMED REQUISITE. THE COMMISSION HELD A NUMBER OF Sittings FOR THE TAKING OF EVIDENCE IN PUBLIC, AND THEIR REPORT WAS PRESENTED ON THE 13TH AUGUST LAST. THIS DOCUMENT, WHICH HAD BEEN LOOKED FOR ON THE TABLE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MONDAY LAST, THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE REPORT WERE PUBLISHED IN OUR ISSUE OF YESTERDAY, AND THEY WOULD, WE THINK, SPEAKING GENERALLY, COMMAND THEMSELVES TO THE GOOD SENSE OF THE COMMUNITY. THE COMMISSION CONDUCTED THEIR INVESTIGATION IN A VERY SEARCHING MANNER, TAKING THE EVIDENCE OF THE PERSONS WHO SIGNED THE PETITION AND OF PROFESSIONAL GENTLEMEN, AND MAKING A PERSONAL INSPECTION OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND A HOUSE TO HOUSE VISITATION. THEY FOUND THAT THE DISEASES COMPLAINED OF WERE chiefly MALARIAL, ALSO THAT A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE CASES EXHIBITED SYMPTOMS OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SEWER GAS POISONING. THE CAUSES TO WHICH THE COMMISSIONERS ATTRIBUTE THE ILLNESS ARE THE ABSENCE OF SUBSOIL DRAINAGE, EARTH CUTTING, ABSENCE OF CULTIVATION, THE SITUATION OF THE HOUSE AT THE BASE OF A HIGH HILL RECEIVING A TROPICAL RAINFALL AND ON A DAMP SOIL, AND, IN ADDITION TO THESE, THEY DIRECT ATTENTION TO THE GENERAL NON-HYGIENIC CONDITIONS EXISTING IN THE DISTRICT, WHICH, WHILE THEY CANNOT HAVE ANY SPECIFIC EFFECT IN BRINGING ABOUT MALARIAL FEVER, MAY INCREASE THE SEVERITY OF THE ATTACKS, AND BY AFFECTING THE GENERAL HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY INCREASE THE PROBABILITY OF ITS DEVELOPMENT. DURING THE COURSE OF THE INQUIRY A NUMBER OF EASILY REMEDIABLE DEFECTS IN THE HOUSE INCLUDED IN THE DISTRICT WHERE THE DISEASE WAS PREVALENT WERE BROUGHT TO LIGHT, AND POSSIBLY TO THE REMEDYING OF THESE AND TO LESS EARTH CUTTING GOING ON IT IS TO BE ATTRIBUTED THE BETTER HEALTH THAT HAS PREVAILLED DURING THE SUMMER JUST ENDED. BUT ATTENTION IS DIRECTED IN THE REPORT TO THE IMPROVED VALUE OF THE OPIUM AND SPIRIT FARMS SWING TO THE LARGE, INFUX OF CHINESE INTO THE COUNTRY TO WORK IN THE TROPICAL FARMS, AND IT IS THEREFORE ADVISABLE THAT BEFORE FINALLY COMMITTING THE COLONY TO THE SEPARATE SYSTEM THE BEST POSSIBLE ADVICE SHOULD BE OBTAINED. AS TO THE OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONERS THERE CAN BE LITTLE DIVERSION OF VIEWS, AND IT IS IN EVERY RESPECT DESIRABLE THAT EACH BE GIVEN TO THEM AS SPEEDILY AS POSSIBLE.

H. M. S. Firebrand was to leave Singapore for Hongkong on the 16th instant.

The U.S.S. Indiana came out of dry dock at Singapore on the 14th October, and was to leave for New York on the 15th.

The Agents (Messrs Jardine, Matheson & Co.) inform us that the Glen Liner steamer Ghase, from New York, left Singapore on Monday for this port.

A Marine Court will assemble at the Harbour Office at half past ten this morning to inquire into the circumstances connected with the death of Wilkins, A.B., of the steamer Ghase, who was washed overboard in the typhoon encountered by that vessel.

We understand a considerable increase of revenue is expected in North Borneo next year from the improved value of the opium and spirit farms owing to the large influx of Chinese into the country to work in the tropical estates.

The Emperor of Germany has started for Berlin, and it is said he left a good impression upon the Italian people.

[FROM SINGAPORE, PAPER.]

ROME, 13th October.

THE EMPEROR WILLIAM.

The Emperor William visited the Pope, who received him in state, surrounded by his court, and seated him by his side.

After the official reception the Emperor had a private interview with the Pope, and was conducted over the Vatican galleries and St. Peter's returning afterwards to the Quirinal.

BONN, 13th October.

GERMANY AND ITALY.

A grand banquet was given to the Emperor by the King of Italy and his royal family.

Count Cesarini and Prince Bernhard have exchanged telegrams dwelling on the value of friendship between the two countries.

BATAVIA, 14th October.

ANOTHER CONSPIRACY IN JAVA.

A conspiracy has been discovered at Madras. Forty-two of the ringleaders have been arrested and eleven who refused to surrender were shot dead.

[PRIVATE TELEGRAM IN STRAITS TIMES.]

A conspiracy has been discovered in the vicinity of Semarang, near the boundary of the Residency Madura. 42 of the ringleaders have been arrested and 12 shot, who would not surrender. The disturbances are now completely suppressed.

CRICKET.

The cricket match between the Garrison and the Regiment finished yesterday, resulting in an easy victory for the latter on the first innings, and it is almost certain that if the Garrison had completed their second innings they would have been defeated as their joint scores stood. Major Johnson and Soutan (24 and 21 respectively) were the only men in the team who got into double figures on the first innings, Johnsons and E. O. Smith dividing the bowling honours and bowling down the "tail" like missing pins.

In the follow-on of the Garrison, a much more

town, and in the Western District, in particular, sewers proper were laid down in the first instance, and no provision made for subsoil drainage, so that the houses there stand in soils damp with sub-soil water. In the sewers there is deficient ventilation, so that sewer-gas finds its outlets in house-drains and surface water inlets. Where traps exist they are in many cases defective in themselves and in others there has been hitherto difficulty in obtaining sufficient water to fill them. In the older houses the drains were found by the Commissioners to be mostly in a defective condition. In some cases the houses were in direct communication with the main sewer, there being no attempt, or but an imperfect one, at trapping or disconnection. In others the ground in the neighbourhood of the drains was sodden for a considerable depth, and a mass of black, silty soil obtained. It is no surprise that under these circumstances the occupant should not enjoy good health. One of the most serious evils brought to light by the Commission was the insanitary condition of the servants' quarters attached to many of the houses. In some instances improvements have been effected in this respect since the Commission commenced its sittings, and with good results, but the difficulty of making satisfactory arrangements is so great that the Commissioners recommend that a reward be offered by Government for the best method of dealing with it, in the hope that the attention of practical engineers and sanitarians may be drawn to it. The training of the whole team, judging by present appearance, will not be long in coming, but the training will be a pity that a sickly run off his chance of making a much bigger stand. Dr. Hobson, who was also run out, scored a good fast 22 runs, while Captain Stanley's not out with 24 was a most creditable performance. Johnston, for the Regiments, got 6 wickets for 50, and E. O. Smith 4 for 37. We append the score.

A gentleman who was in Batang Padang and Lower Perak about the beginning of the year, and who had been there again recently, told us that the houses there stand in soils damp with sub-soil water. In the places where forest stood nine months ago, vast clearing and plantations now testify to the energy of man. Much of the progress of the country is due to Mr. Dawson, the Superintendent of Lowe Perak, who is not only energetic himself, but has the knock of instilling some of his energy into the natives. He pushes the country under his hand as far as, perhaps, the state does. —Pering Besar.

A large number of the shops in the new temporary Market are now completed, mostly by trustees, and, without exception, the Chinese vendors have done their utmost to make them attractive. There seems to be a general desire to turn to commerce, and the Chinese are well on the way to becoming a nation of shopkeepers.

The portion of the building in which the stalls which have now been afforded to them.

The first twelve of the subscription griffins for the Hongkong Race meeting of 1889 were drawn for at Kennedy's stable yesterday morning, most of the animals although possessing favourable points are rather bulky, and inclined to swell in the hind quarters, but the training they will put to will soon take off all superfluous body that they now have. Gray and white colours preponderate, the numbers of one or other being about equal, and there are a few little animals that would be home in a good hard game of polo. The pick of the whole team, judging by present appearance, will be long in coming, but the training will be a pity that a sickly run off his chance of making a much bigger stand. Dr. Hobson, who was also run out, scored a good fast 22 runs, while Captain Stanley's not out with 24 was a most creditable performance. Johnston, for the Regiments, got 6 wickets for 50, and E. O. Smith 4 for 37. We append the score.

THE 15TH REGIMENT.

G. E. Higginbotham, b. Black, 10. 10.

Major Charnier, b. Black, 10. 10.

Drummer Taylor, Johnson, b. Black, 10. 10.

Corporal Spinks, b. Black, 10. 10.

J. Little, a. Green, 10. 10.

E. C. Lifford, b. Black, 10. 10.

E. O. Smith, not out. 10. 10.

Stanley, b. Black, 10. 10.

Johnston, b. Black, 10. 10.

Major Dawson, b. Black, 10. 10.

Major Charnier, b. Black, 1

MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 1888.

THE FINANCES OF THE COLONY.

The message of His Excellency the Governor, read at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 17th inst., gives an extremely gratifying review of the financial position of the colony. The balance of revenue over ordinary expenditure for next year is estimated at \$349,058, to which must be added \$160,000, the amount estimated to be realised from land premiums. It is in the excess of revenue over ordinary expenditure that we must look for an indication of the colony's prosperity. As regards the ability and the justification of the colony to borrow funds for works which will benefit future generations as well as the present, the Governor, points to the assets of the colony in the shape of its unsold lands and its two magnificent systems of waterworks. While agreeing with every word said by His Excellency as to the value of these assets, it would, we think, be a policy attended with some risk to borrow money on them, unless the balance of revenue over extraordinary expenditure showed a sufficient margin to cover interest and sinking fund. The progress of the colony has of late years been remarkable, and there can be no reasonable doubt that it will be equally or still more remarkable in future. But this progress may not be uninterrupted. From 1865 to 1875 the colony probably stood still, and similar periods of stagnation may well occur in the future. The execution of large public works in itself gives to a place a certain measure of fictitious prosperity, which disappears when the works are completed and the amount expended on wages and material is no longer placed in circulation. This has been the experience of many of the newer towns in England, where the rapid growth of population owing to rising industries led to a great demand for houses; the building trade was for a time one of the most important in the place, but when the supply of houses came near overtaking the demand the builders left for other places, and their withdrawal left the houses they occupied vacant, lessened the circulation of money, and caused a period of depression to set in. The carrying out of the Praya reclamation scheme and the other large public works projected will necessarily cause a large influx of population, but it will be only prudent to bear in mind the possibility of a slack period supervening. The value of land, too, may suffer a decline. His Excellency speaks of the valuation of the Praya reclamation at \$37,477 being more than justified by existing market prices, but in the natural course of things we must expect the existing market prices to be affected by the throwing of this large extent of land on the market, unless the trade of the colony increases as fast as the reclamation can be made, which would be a very sanguine view indeed. Values may be kept up by holders refusing to sell until the demand has again overtaken the supply, as it assuredly will, but the interval will not, in all probability, be a period of such prosperity as we have been enjoying of late and are likely to enjoy for some years to come while the work is in progress. If the colony then found itself saddled with a loan contracted on too restrictive a view of its prosperity it might find a difficulty in meeting its obligations and be compelled to adopt the "policy of selling land without the condition of immediate building, and thus abandon to speculators the profit that would otherwise be reaped by the community. For this reason we say that the limits of our borrowing ought to be strictly governed by those of the excess of revenue over ordinary expenditure, which is the true measure of the colony's ability to pay interest and sinking fund, as it is also the point to which leaders would chiefly direct their attention.

If a loan were required, the balance shown in the present estimates would justify one of several millions of dollars; for though it would not be safe to reckon on the prosperity of the colony increasing in the same ratio as during the past twelve years, there is no reason to anticipate any retrogression; the worst that can reasonably be anticipated is that we might stand still. But even if the trade of the colony stood still a substantial increase in the revenue may still be looked for in view of the increasing value of the opium farm, an increase not mainly dependent on growth of population, but on the facilities now afforded for preventing infringements of the monopoly. It does not, however, appear that a loan is required at once. With the balance in the Treasury at the end of the present year, and the estimated surplus next year, there will be a total sum of \$878,063 available for the cost of public works and to meet unforeseen contingencies. The extraordinary public works provided for in the Estimates involve an expenditure of \$637,828, which will leave a balance of \$240,000 to be carried forward to 1889, when the balance of revenue over ordinary expenditure will be again swelled by the new opium contract being in force for the full twelve months instead of nine months only, as will be the case next year. The extraordinary public works provided for in the present Estimates are as follows:

New Water Works.....	\$30,000
Main Drainage and Sanitary Works (other than separate system).....	50,000
Draughts on separate system \$303,000, of which:	
New Central Market.....	50,000
Slaughter-houses, Kowloon.....	70,000
Slaughter-houses, Kowloon.....	35,000
Draughts on separate system \$303,000, of which:	
Extension of Castle Market.....	30,000
Wash houses for people.....	20,000
Sheep and Pig Markets.....	30,000
Draughts on separate system \$303,000, of which:	
New Central Market.....	55,000
Lunatic Asylum for Chinese (Completion).....	30,000
Police Station, Aberdeen.....	20,000
Police Station, Queen's.....	10,000
Police Station, Queen's.....	9,000
Police Station, Queen's.....	6,000
New offices, store-room, and residence, for Superintendent of Botanical and Aromatic Herb Department.....	15,000
Establishment of Fire Department.....	30,000
Balance—Contribution to defence.....	15,625
Filler Bed, Pekulam Reservoir.....	32,000
Twelve Public Latrines.....	25,000
Gap Rock light-houses (Estimated cost \$10,000, of which required in 1888).....	30,000
Total.....	\$387,828

Most of these are urgently required, and to none of them can exception be taken, unless on technical grounds the advisability of adopting the separate system of drainage be called in question. It will be noted that the Tytan Water Works no longer appear in the list, that large undertaking being now practically complete. Amongst the works which will be noted with especial satisfaction are the provision of quarters for female nurses at the Civil Hospital, public wash-houses, and the epidemic hospital. Besides the public works mentioned in the above list there are others, involving larger expenditure, mentioned in the Governor's message. These are—a new Harbour Office, which requires to be placed on the proposed reclamation; new Supreme Court Buildings, Post Office, and Registrar-General's Office, all of which it is proposed to include with the other Government Offices in one large building to be erected on the site of the present North Barracks and the reclamation in front of it; the extension of the Praya in front of the

Admiralty and War Office reservoirs, which is roughly estimated to cost \$400,000; the Government portion of the Praya reclamation, \$565,000; and reclamations at Kowloon (first instalment) \$20,000. The last three the Governor hopes may be commenced during the coming year. The extension of the Praya in front of the Military and Naval reserves is a scheme which every Governor and Administrator for years past has tried to forward, and if Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX succeeds in bringing it to a successful issue he will earn the gratitude of the whole community. The new Harbour Office, and the block of buildings to be erected on the site of the North Barracks to accommodate the Supreme Court, Post Office, Registrar-General's Office, and the other Government Offices are urgently required, but their commencement is dependent on the completion of the Praya reclamation and extension. That the valuable ground now occupied by the barracks is at last to be made available for other purposes is one of the most gratifying announcements in the Governor's message. A less gratifying announcement is that a new gao will shortly be built to be used in the market at Shekung and Kunung being supplied from Hongkong by junk direct, instead of, as in former years, by steamer through Canton. If this were true it would in itself be a sufficient justification of the transfer of the station to the Foreign Customs. The complaint of the Hongkong merchants against the Native Customs was that junks were subjected to unnecessary delays and illegal exactions; and it is held that if these were done away with the trade would increase, which is precisely what we find to be the case. But Mr. ALABASTER does not endorse the statement that the decline in the Canton returns is to be accounted for by an increase in the junk trade; he merely gives it as what is said to be the case, and goes on to offer another explanation on his own account. He does not think the trade has really declined, though the Customs Returns show a decline, and the explanation he offers is that markets in the interior, hitherto supplied from Canton, now derive their supplies overland through Tonquin or Pahkoi, and thus escape levin and other exactions they would be subjected to at Canton. The Pahkoi return certainly do not show an increase, and a very substantial one, the value of foreign goods imported there last year having been \$16,089,656 as against \$16,170,771 in 1886, and \$16,136,542 in 1885. 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profit in addition, the Governor is of opinion

that there can be no reasonable objection to the provision of the required funds by loan, unless, as may be the means impossible, that course should render unnecessary. As regards borrowing funds for works which will benefit future generations as well as the present, especially such works as of a remunerative character the Governor believes that if the true position of this Colony were more fully known all reasonable objections against such a policy would be removed, and the interest required will moreover be reduced below the rate at which the rate paid in respect of the last Loan. Considering the extremely small indebtedness of Hongkong with reference even to its immediately realizable assets, the Governor is decidedly of opinion that it was necessary for borrowing a sum many times larger than is at all likely to be required, there could scarcely be offered more complete security for it. As far as the area of the Colony is concerned, the Crown Lands are of capital value, and the revenue which is morally certain to increase pari passu with the rapid growth of the population. Without attaching undue weight to the many recent sales of land at distances of 1 to 2 miles from the town of Victoria at prices varying from 20 cents to 40 cents a square foot, or to the recent reduction (believed to be more than justified) of the rates of taxation on land, it is evident that the amount of land available for sale is to be undertaken in front of the Plaza at \$79,102.11, or including that in front of the Government property at \$917,477; it may in any case be fairly considered that these figures throw a useful light on the prospect of the future, if the colony, as there is every reason to suppose it will, should continue to prove an attraction to the people of the neighbouring Empire. In this instance, of course, the value of the land on the presumption that the Government is wise enough to maintain the present freedom of trade, there can be no moral doubt that the 20,000 acres of unoccupied land in the colony (most of which is as suitable, or not more unsuitable for building than was originally that which is now covered with houses) will eventually realize much more than their present value. Indeed, if the necessary were to be done, the present policy of selling without the condition of immediate building, and of thus abandoning to speculators the profits which will otherwise be reaped by the community, there would be little difficulty of obtaining from sales within a few weeks an aggregate sum equal to several times the amount of the annual revenue of the colony. But, as far as the Colony is concerned, there is a considerable need in its two magnificent systems of water works, which unlike similar works elsewhere, have been entirely paid for out of income. These could readily be sold for more than their cost viz.: a quarter of a million sterling, while the rent-charges on land already sold, would, if capitalized, produce about half a million more. When it is further considered that there is an additional value in the fact that the Government is almost entirely dependent on commercial and industrial labour, which could derive benefit from a more extended system of its products in England, the objection to taking part in a mere Exhibition is intelligible, not without force. But the addition to the original project of a plan for a Commercial Museum seems in itself not only to justify, but to render most desirable, some substantial support to the Institution, and on that account the Governor made a stand in favour of the proposed subject of gambling in this kind which has been established in Germany have been a very appreciable factor in the remarkable commercial progress which has been made by that country in recent years; and it is evident that a collection which is kept continually supplied with samples of the goods actually required, or likely to prove attractive to the people of all nationalities who visit Hongkong, the object of the exhibition will be easily attained.

The Governor is therefore of opinion that without appealing to British sentiment or to Imperial sentiment or indeed to any sentiment at all, the taking of some share in the Industrial work of the Colony may be the best way of securing a further reduction in the taxes which would be imposed by the development of the resources of the island. For this reason, it would probably be advantageous that an arrangement should be made by which the bonds for any Loan that may prove to be required should not be issued to the public, unless the necessary for doing so actually arise, but should be deposited as security for temporary advances in a plan, if the Government is to be induced to take up the responsibility of the Colony, and apart from this consideration he believes that it would hereafter become for various reasons a subject of regret if Hongkong should persist in standing aloof from a Great Institution which has been deemed worthy of the support of all the rest of the Empire. Although these are the main reasons why the Governor is in favour of the proposal, the objection to the taking part in a mere Exhibition is certainly the 4th, if not the 3rd, in the world, there seems no reason why the credit of the Colony should not at least as high as that of the Corporations and Companies which borrow at 3 per cent.; and it is with a view to assist towards that end that the Governor has made this special reference to the subject. The Governor is also inclined to believe that the large sums of money which would be repaid in five or six years, short periods of not being at all in favour with investors. Some of the funds might indeed be reinvested, as they were received, in a road and tramway round the island at the edge of the water—a work which ought in any case to be commenced at a distant date—but even in that case, the expenditure on the roads and tramways would be increased by the development of the resources of the island, without the unanimous approval of the Legislative Council; and he refers to the subject here in order that it may receive consideration in Finance Committee. In conclusion the Governor indulges the hope that whether his opinions as above expressed meet with the concurrence of the Council or not, the Members will at least agree with him that the financial consequences of the proposed Ordnance, if carried by the above method, may be regarded as a subject of very justifiable congratulation. The Governor has in his message confined himself entirely to questions of finance. He proposes, in another to pass briefly in review the principal events of the year about to close, and also as regards the coming year to mention the various subjects which demand attention, giving at the same time some general indications of the measures which he hopes to be able to submit to the consideration of the Council.

the burthen will be distributed over a longer period; and it is probable that in the course of one or two years the condition of the Revenue will warrant the completion of the work which the Government needs to be done by the end of the year.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

HIS EXCELLENCE—I think it would be well

that I should say a few further words about the reason of this Ordinance. I may say in the first place that from long experience I am somewhat sceptical about the suppression of gambling by an Act of Parliament, though I am not averse to nobly trying to do what I can to stop the evils caused by gambling. I believe that never have been overestimated; I believe they are very grave indeed. But from such experience as I have had of the world I believe they are, if not possibly impossible, almost impossible to suppress by Act of Parliament. We all know the extreme difficulty of stopping the laws which are against the facilities of a free and easy life of the population. We have abundant instances of this in the world at this moment, in Ireland, because the majority of the population is against the law of the process of enforcing the law is very difficult indeed. But even as regards this special subject of gambling, we have seen in England what utter failure laws on the subject are, and I need hardly say that the result of this is that the law of the House of Commons has been entirely repealed.

Another point which I will bring up is that

the amount of the reduction in the rates paid

by the tax, and such an impact on more skilled labourers could therefore receive a slight justification only from the fact that the licence was useless for Police purpose. But as identification was impossible without photographs, to obtain which in the cases of some 4,000 persons, the cost of the police force for this tax would completely fail. This is the most important consideration, and the amount of the reduction in the assessed rates—a reduction which is over eleven-and-a-half per cent. of the whole of the rates paid in the town of Victoria and of course forms a much larger proportion of the lower rates paid in the country districts. As regards the other points, I am afraid that the reduction of one-and-a-half per cent. is not sufficient to make up the loss of the tax, and an impact on more skilled labourers could therefore receive a slight justification only from the fact that the licence was useless for Police purpose. 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